ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes

—OF THE—

HAW RIDGE BAPTIST

Association,

—HELD WITH—

Clintonville Church,

OCTOBER 14, 15, 1896.

OFFICERS:

P. KING,	Moderator.
W. J. HATCHER,	Clerk.
J. W. ROE,	Treasurer.

Meets in 1897, on Thursday before the 3rd Sunday in Oct., with the church at Tennille, Pike Co., to convene 3 days.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.—C. L. Matthews, Ozark; J. W. Bullard, Daleville; Newton, Dot; W. J. Hatcher, Hatcher.
LICENTIATES.—Elbert Matthews, Dillard.

OZARK, ALA.
SOUTHERN STAR PRINT,
1896.

Minutes.

CLINTONVILLE, COFFEE CO. ALA., October 15, 4896.

The eighth annual session of the Haw Ridge Baptist Association convened with the church at Clintonviile.

The introductory sermon was preached by our beloved Bro C L Matthews of Ozark, Ala. from the 1st 5 verses of the 10th chapter of John, giving a very instructive lesson on the "sheep-fold." Intermission for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body was called to order by Bro P King, former Moderator.

Letters from the following churches were read, and delegates names enrolled as follows :

ANTIOCH—No letter, A Pelham.

COOL SPRING—P G Belcher, A L Brazil, J R J Hatcher and Andrew Cotton.

CLINTONVILLE—G W Cagler and T F Andrews.

CHRISTIAN HOME—D A Faulk, J W Wilson and R G Jackson.

ENTRRPRISE—G M Heath, I H McLane. J A McGhee and W E Heath

HAW RIDGE—W E Heath and John Jones.

LIME CREEK—T J Spigner and J B Bullard.

Mt LIBERTY.—Rev C L Matthews, W J Hatcher, Henry Hudson, J H Hudson and James Caraway.

PLEASANT GROVE—R Brown, N M Godwin, W F Sims, J H Wilson, W G Byrd, H M Smith and Z Harris.

ROCKEY HEAD—E F King, J W Johnson, H B Cherry and T J Lester.

EBENEZER—No letter, P King, W C Jones. B G Byrd, W J Snellgrove, W R Snellgrove Jr. J C Head and Russell Beckham.

A permanent organization was then made, electing P King Moderator, W J Hatcher Secretary, and J W Roe Treasurer.

Eden church, which had been recognized, was received back into the body by letter, and names of delegates enrolled, C J Hinson and W T Smith.

The following committees were appointed.

ON DIVINE SERVICE—I H McLane, A F Brazil, Elvin Jones, together with the delegates from this church.

ON NOMINATIONS—W G Jones, D A Faulk and T G Belcher.

ON DOCUMENTS—J A McGhee., C J Hudson and J H Wilson.

ON FINANCE—R G Jackson, G G Byrd and C W Cagler.

INVITATION TO MINISTERS AND AGENTS—Bro S O Ray, Evangelist respondəd, representing Howard College, thə Board, thc Alabama Baptist, and other denomiuational work. S M Dowling and C L Matthews rerpesented the Texas Baptist Standard. C S Pelham recognized as missionary of the Association.

Committee on Divine Service reported. W J Hatcher to preach at 7:30 p m and S O Y Ray 11 a m to-morrow.

Adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock a m to-morrow.

SECOND DAY.

8 a m Moderator in the chair. Session opened with prayer led by our aged and devoted Bro C S Pelham.

Report on Temperance read and advocated by W J Hatcher, and a strong and instructive and encouraging speech made by S O Y Ray, and talks by brethren Dowling, A Pelham and C L Matthews. The report was unanimously adopted. See exhibit A.

Report of C S Pelham, missionary, read and adopted. See exhibit B.

Adjourned to hear Bro Ray preach his missionary map sermon, which was doubtless the best missionary sermon ever delivered to the body—his utterances will be transmitted, and live in the heart of generations to come.

Dinner over, the evening session was called to order promptly at 1;30 prayer led by Bro Ambrose Pelham. Talk by Bro C S Pelham.

Report on missions read and after some discussion and alteration was adopted. See exhibit C.

Report on Education read and adopted. See exhibit D.

Report on Nominations read and adopted. See exhibit E.

Report on Documents read and adopted. See exhibit F.

Report of Executive Committee read and adopted. See exhibit G.

The following resolution was offered by Bro C L Matthews.

Resolved, That the Clerk be allowed ten dollars for his services, the balance of the missionary funds to be turned over to S O Y Ray to be applied as prescribed. Adopted.

N B—The Association adjourned and at once dispersed, after the adoption of above resolution, all but Ray, the Treasurer and myself. We found the missionary money had been designated by the churches, and knew the Association had transcended its bounds by differently appropriating the funds of the churches, this left the Clerk with only $14.81 to pay himself, and for the printing of the Minutes.

Have made agreement with Bro J H Adams to publish 350 Minutes for $10.00, leaving $4.81 for Clerk.

Resolution of thanks by Bro C L Matthews.

Resolved, That we the Haw Ridge Association, tender this church and community our sincere thanks for their highly appreciated hospitalities during our stay among them. Adopted by a unanimous rising vote. Adjourned.

P King, Moderator.

W J Hatcher, Clerk.

Remark 1st. There are about 1000 members in the Association. We need for Minutes and Clerk $25.00, this will make about 2½ cents a member, by this rule each church will know what their prorata share is of the Minute fund. Clerk.

Remark 2d. There was a resolution passed, recommending the Association to co-operate with the Board, and to raise $75.00, this will make about 8 cents per member, and brethren we can and ought to pay it. Clerk.

EXHIBIT A.

TEMPERANCE.

We find in Genesis 3 and 6, that the first sin man ever committed was to gratify the appetite, God said "thou shalt not eat of it (the forbidden fruit) for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." but man's appetite said "it is good for food." Thus we see that man was led by his appetite, to ignore the sovereignty, wisdom, love, and goodness of God, and made a brute of himself, and we find, while time and circumstances work many wonderful changes, yet man's appetite remains as true to its nature as light and darkness, and heat and cold. The same law that caused man to ignore his Creator in the Garden of Eden and eat the fruit of death, still holds dominion over him, hence having rejected God, he lowers himself to come under the reign of Satan, he drinks the drink of death, his reason yields to the poison of alcohol, which turns his lusts and passions loose—he gets drunk, and turns to a hog, and lies down and rolls in the mud, or he turns fool and makes himself troublesome, disgusting and despisable, or he turns demon, takes his fellow man's life, breaks the heart of mother and wife, brings his wife and children to disappointment, poverty, shame, want and misery. Let me here ask a question. If a man will make a lying hog and demon of himself, and thus destroy himself, lie to, and destroy his wife, his bosom companion of life, and his own children, what would he do for others? reason answers, that if he did no worse, he certainly would do no better. Let me ask another question. What confidence can be placed in a man who is a slave to his appetite for alcohol? my answer is, none, as a friend or ruler. A man who does not have enough self respect, and self control, to subdue and control his appetite for alcohol can lay no reasonable claims on any one to confidence or emulation. Natural and denominational sins, as well as personal, are rooted and grounded in the same principle, consequently are just as formidable. It is a shameful fact, that America "the home of the brave and the land of the free," is a drunkard. Our ignorant and immoral politicians argue that it is against the law of liberty to legislate on the appetite, and you will hear little cross-rod fice-dogs arguing the same thing. Now lets see if it is, let a man break into a house and steal food or drink to gratify his appetite, then you say—put the law to him. Now why is this? lets see. If a fellow gets drunk, and sets an example before your boy, that eventually sends him to prison, to the gallows, and to hell. You say he has a constitutional right to so do, but if he steals a little whiskey, or a little something to eat when he is thirsty or hungry, he violates the law of the Constitution and of morality. Statistics show that about 90 per cent of the crimes done in America, resulted from the use of legalized whiskey. Why legislate upon a man's tongue? and prosecute him for slander or perjury or disturbing public worship, or profanity in the presence of ladies? why legislate upon man's sexual propensity? and prosecute men and women for adultery? Turn a man's appetite for alcohol loose, and the alcohol will dethrone his reason, and turn the whole man out of prison, tongue, passion, lusts and propensities. Oh what blind fools and

devils men can be? If alcohol is the cause of 90 per cent of the crimes done, then the United States is responsible for having legalized it. I hail with pride, reverence and joy, the position the Southern Baptist Convention took at Chattanooga last spring—upon the whiskey question. She condemned by almost a unanimous vote, the manufacture, importation, sale and use of alcohol as a beverage, beside this many of the most prominent physicians say that alcohol is not a medicine, but a poison. Thus we see the Temperance sentiment is gaining ground rapidly, in both scientific and religious circles.

I am sorry to say, we have some few church members, who are still so low and degraded, that they claim a free man's and christian right to drink the drink of poison, death and hell, and will go so far as to sign liquor petitions, which I consider equivolent to signing a death and hell warrant. In conclusion, I beg to offer the following resolution in connection with the report viz :

Resolved, That there is no scripture authority for using whiskey or alcohol as a beverage, and that for church members to drink it as such, and spend their labor for it, and in any way countenance its use as a beverage, it is a shame and a sin. We therefore recommend the churches to so consider it. W J Hatchee.

EXHIBIT B.

Missionary Report.

Since the Association of 1895 I have labored in the best way I could, from house to house, with the poor, the halt, maimed and blind, comforting and consoling them, the best I could, visited 55 churches where I rendered service, held service in 122 families, making glad the hearts of many. Traveled 2100 miles, preached 107 sermons, held 280 devotional services, delivered 355 admonitions and exhortations, made 743 family visits, visited 91 sick persons. was engaged in this work 230 days. I believe the good Lord has blessed my labors, though done in much weakness. May the God of heaven bless and carry on the good cause of his kingdom.

Your willing and obedient servant,
C S Pelham.

Have sold about 200 books, mostly Bibles and Testaments.

EXHIBIT C.

Report on Missions.

Your committee are sorry to note the falling off of contributions in this Association, the cause for this state of things is a matter for thoughtful and prayerful consideration. Your committee believe that two causes exist. 1st for the want of system in our collections, and instruction on this line of work. 2nd the misappropriation of funds sent up to this body by the churches. We recommend the pastors instruct on this line, and collections be taken monthly for this purpose, and that literature be circulated throughout this Association. If we fail along this line of work, we remove all cause for our existence

and will be left to die as our anti-missionaries have done.

We are glad to report a better state of things at large, and for all mission work; all things considered this has been one of our most prosperous years, especially in Alabama.

We call your attention to the plan suggested by our State Mission Board, for the enlargement of this work in Alabama. The plan is to put 6 evangelists in the field another year, and ask us to aid them in this work, and it further suggested that each Association appoint a colporteur and missionary where practicable. We recommend that this Association make an appropriation of $75.00 for the evangelistic work, and apportion it among the churches, and co-operate with our State Board of Missions, and we further recommend that Bro W J Hatcher be appointed as colporteur and missionary of this Association. C L Matthews.

The above report was discussed by several brethren especially Bro S O Y Ray, and was finally amended by putting C S Pelham instead of W J Hatcher, and passed by 2 votes.

N B—The $75.00 recommended in the above report is to go to the evangelistic work of the State, and not to the colporteur and missionary work of the Association. Secretary.

EXHIBIT D.

Education.

We are glad to report the outlook for Howard College better than for several years. The debt which has threatened its destruction is in a fair way of being removed, and the opening as good as for many years. The Judson Institute, the pride of our denomination was never more firmly fixed in the minds of our people, than at present. The opening the present session, despite the death of our lamented President, is better than for several years, and we commend both these institutions as worthy the patronage of all our people. Your committee would especially urge the building up of Academies and High Schools in every community, for to these the youth of our land in a large measure looks for education. Let us not be satisfied with the public schools, but suppliment them and make them a blessing to church and home.

P G Belcher,
A L Brazil.

EXHIBIT E.

Nominations.

We your committee on Nominations submit the following report.

On Missions—Rev C L Matthews, G M Heath and R G Jackson.

On Education—T R Searcy, P G Belcher and I M McLane.

On Temperance—W J Hatcher, J W Snellgrove and W C Jones.

On Deceased Ministers and Deacons—A L Brazil, F Clark and H Cherry.

On Orphan Home—W M Cooper, J J Brunson and J W Roe.

To preach introductory sermon, W J Hatcher, committee, P G Belcher, D A Faulk and W C Jones.

Lieut. Jno. Guernsey
Clark